Application Number: 10/757,439

Reply to Office Action of May 23, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-90 (canceled)

Claim 91 (New): A toner container, comprising:

a mouth portion having a central opening and an outer wall, the outer wall having a

diameter greater than a diameter of the central opening and extending outwardly relative to

the container substantially in an axial direction of the central opening;

a support member secured proximate to the central opening, the support member

including spaced-apart members extending substantially in the axial direction inwardly

relative to the container, the spaced-apart members being connected at a position which is

separated from the mouth portion;

a piston member movably disposed along a length of the spaced-apart members and

arranged to seal and unseal the central opening; and

a coil spring extending substantially in the axial direction, the coil spring having a

first end portion arranged to exert a force resisted by the support member and a second end

portion arranged to exert a force against the piston member.

Claim 92 (New): The toner container according to claim 91, wherein the coil spring

is configured to urge the piston member to engage with the mouth portion in a closed position

to block a flow of toner out of the container, and the toner flows out of the toner container

through the mouth portion when the piston member is pushed inwardly relative to the

container to an opened position when a nozzle of an imaging apparatus is engaged with the

mouth portion when the container is installed in the imaging apparatus.

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Claim 93 (New): The toner container according to claim 92, wherein, when the piston member is in the opened position, a toner flow passage exists from the interior of the container to the central opening through the spaced-apart members.

Claim 94 (New): The toner container according to claim 91, wherein the mouth portion is cup-shaped.

Claim 95 (New): The toner container according to claim 91, wherein the support member is adhered to the mouth portion.

Claim 96 (New): The toner container according to claim 91, further comprising: a ring-shaped gasket secured to the mouth portion.

Claim 97 (New): The toner container according to claim 96, wherein the ring-shaped gasket is a ring-shaped foam sponge.

Claim 98 (New): The toner container according to claim 91, further comprising:

a ring-shaped gasket disposed between an inner surface of the outer wall of the mouth
portion and the central opening.

Claim 99 (New): The toner container according to claim 97, wherein the ring-shaped foam sponge is concentric with the central opening in the mouth portion and extends beyond the outer wall in the axial direction.

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Claim 100 (New): The toner container according to claim 97, wherein, when the toner container is closed, an outer circumference of the piston member is held in slidable contact with an inner circumference of the ring-shaped gasket.

Claim 101 (New): The toner container according to claim 91, wherein the piston member is separately formed from the coil spring.

Claim 102 (New): The toner container according to claim 91, further comprising: the toner stored in the container.

Claim 103 (New): The toner container according to claim 93, further comprising: the toner stored in the container.

Claim 104 (New): The toner container according to claim 91, wherein the central opening is a filling opening.

Claim 105 (New): The toner container according to claim 91, wherein the mouth portion is configured to interface with a nozzle provided at a setting portion, the setting portion being configured to removably receiving a body of the toner container.